

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14, 23 - 40, 51, 52 and 57 - 60 are currently pending, claims 15 - 22 having been earlier withdrawn and claims 41 - 50 and 53 - 56 having earlier been canceled. In the present amendment, Applicant cancels claims 11, 52 and 57 - 60 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amends claims 1, 2, 4, 7 - 10, 12 - 14, 23, 28, 29 and 35. No new matter is added. Support for these claims may be found in the specification, for example, at page 9, line 25 through page 13, line 29 and page 19, line 13 through page 24, line 18.

A final Office Action was mailed on May 13, 2005. Claims 1 - 13, 29 - 40, 51, 52 and 57 - 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,039,688 to Douglas et al. in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,880,731 to Liles et al. Claims 14 and 23 - 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Douglas in view of Liles and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0088461 to Christensen. Claims 28 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Douglas in view of Liles and U.S. Patent No. 6,658,457 to Rice et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In amended independent claim 1, Applicant discloses:

1. A method for funding an interactive network site hosted on a server , comprising the steps of:

providing a question and answer forum on the network site for access by a plurality of users and a plurality of experts, the forum having a topic;

receiving first and second questions generated by one or more of the plurality of users, wherein the first question identifies a first expert chosen to answer the first question, and the second question identifies identifies a second expert chosen to answer the second question or identifies no chosen expert to answer the second question;

routing the first question to the first chosen expert, wherein the first question may be selectively displayed on a personal expert interface of the first chosen expert in a grouping of questions identified as being directed to the first chosen expert;

routing the second question to the second chosen expert when the second chosen question is identified, wherein the second question may be selectively displayed on a

35. A method for funding a plurality of interactive network sites, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of question and answer fora for access by at least one user and at least one expert, each of the fora being generated at least one of the plurality of interactive network sites;

receiving a question from a user accessing the forum of one of said plural interactive network sites;

identifying an expert chosen to answer the received question;

routing the question to the chosen expert;

receiving a response by the expert to the question, and a command signal selectively identifying at least one of the plurality of fora at which to post the response;

posting the response generated by the expert at the identified fora based on the command signal; and

receiving a payment from a third party associated with at least one of the fora posting the response.

In the Office Action of May 13, 2005, the Examiner suggests that Douglas discloses multiple, referencing Douglas' "meeting room" (e.g., FIG. 14) and "coffee shop" (e.g., FIG. 15), and further suggests that the use of multiple network sites to support multiple fora is well-known in the art. However, in sharp contrast to Applicant's invention as claimed in amended independent claim 35, neither Douglas nor Liles, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest that a command signal be received together with the response to a question, and cause that response to be selectively posted at one or more identified fora based on the command signal. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 35 is not made obvious by the combination of Douglas and Liles and is in condition for allowance. As dependent claims 36 - 40 and 51 each depend from allowable claim 35, Applicant further submits that dependent claims 36 - 40 and 51 are allowable for at least this reason.

Applicant requests that this amendment be entered, respectfully submits that the application is thereby placed in condition for allowance, and requests that the application be allowed.

Should the Examiner have any questions, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Dated: November 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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